2007 Fiscal Report
Snow Survey and Water Forecasting

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision
Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission
Helping People Help the Land

"We produce a number of products within the Snow Survey and Water Forecasting Office. Within the next few years we will focus on the interpretation of forecasts for use at the local level, to improve the water user's understanding of available information and how they can apply it to their own unique situations."
Snow Survey and Water Forecasting Supervisor

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service
HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND
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The Program
Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting works with Colorado's water users and managers to provide information on water availability across the State.

In this region (CO, AZ, NM, and southern WY), there are 155 automated SNOTEL (SNOwpack TELemetry) sites, including 101 in Colorado, and an additional 156 manually measured snow courses.

The Snow Survey Program in Colorado is responsible for collecting snowpack and climatological data using the SNOTEL *(SNOpack TELemetry)* system.

* The SNOTEL data is supplemented by data collected manually at snowcourses located in high mountain watersheds.
* Streamflow forecasts are updated monthly as the winter progresses, allowing water users and resource managers to plan for changing streamflow conditions and water supplies.

2007 Summary
- The 2007 winter season began in December 2006 with a series of winter storms that brought abundant snowfall totals and water content to the basins of eastern Colorado.
- Even with the dryer conditions across the western portion of the state, the statewide snowpack reached its highest percentage on February 1, 2007, at 92% of average.
- Spring arrived early across the state and snowpack percentages began to decrease in March 2007. By April 1, 2007, the state's snowpack had dropped to 75% of average and by May 1, 2007, the state's snowpack had decreased to only 68% of average.
- The two basins that produced the lowest runoff, as a percent of average, were the Yampa and Gunnison, at only 61% and 64% of average, respectively.
- Those basins in eastern Colorado, which had been impacted by the abundant early-season snowfall, were able to produce near average runoff during the snowmelt runoff season.
- By the end of September, the state's reservoir storage was 98% of average and was 11% above last year's storage on that date.
- Reservoir storage reached a high point for the year in May, as the runoff reached its peak, at 106% of average.
- At this time, the state's reservoir storage was the highest it had been since May 2001, prior to the significant drought year of 2002.

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